



U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement

May 26, 2005

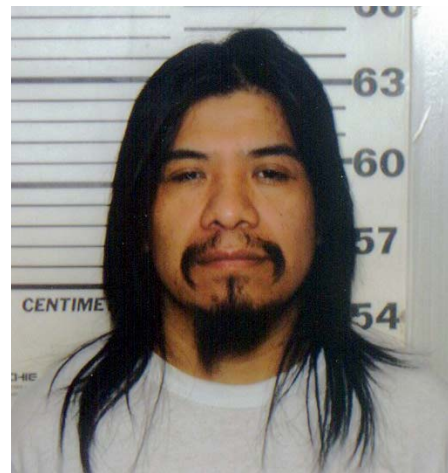
# News Release

## **ICE DEPORTS ROCHESTER CRIMINAL ALIEN TO MEXICO**

*Man threatened to kill his wife with a hammer*

BLOOMINGTON, Minn.—U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detention BLOOMINGTON, Minn.—U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detention and removal officers deported to Mexico yesterday a Rochester man who was convicted of making terroristic threats by wielding a hammer over his wife's head and threatening to kill her.

Juan Elodio-Benitez, 35, legally immigrated to the United States from Mexico in 1998. According to a criminal complaint filed in Olmstead County District Court, a Rochester Police officer responded to a domestic assault report in August 2003. The officer found Elodio-Benitez with his wife, which violated a protection order barring contact between the two. The woman told the officer that she and Elodio-Benitez argued. He grabbed her hair, pulled her head down, and raised a hammer in the other hand, threatening to kill her.



Elodio-Benitez pleaded guilty to making terroristic threats in November 2003. He was given a one-year and one-day stayed prison sentence. However, the judge required him to serve 30 days in the Olmstead County Adult Detention Center, and also placed him on five years' probation.

After the second time Elodio-Benitez violated his probation in August 2004, the court imposed the stayed sentence and he was sent to prison. While in prison, ICE special agents placed a "detainer" on Elodio-Benitez to ensure that prison officials notified ICE prior to his release. ICE routinely checks jails and prisons nationwide to locate, identify and then deport criminal aliens.

“This criminal has done too much damage in Rochester,” said Special Agent-in-Charge Mark Cangemi of the ICE office in Bloomington. “We make a priority of finding, arresting and deporting those who bring harm to our communities, including members of their own families.”

Although Elodio-Benitez had legal status in the United States, his criminal conviction resulted in a federal immigration judge revoking his permanent-resident status and ordered him deported to Mexico.

Court records show that Elodio-Benitez was also convicted in August 2003 of domestic assault against his wife.

During fiscal year 2004, which ended Sept. 30, ICE detention and removal agents removed 3,152 criminal aliens and status violators from a five-state area that includes: Minnesota, Nebraska, Iowa North Dakota and South Dakota. Of that number, 1,488 were classified as criminal aliens for having been convicted of such crimes as: drug offenses, assault and battery, armed robbery, rape and fraud. The remaining 1,664 had committed administrative immigration law violations.

NOTE: For a JPEG digital image file of Elodio-Benitez, please contact Tim Counts at 952-853-2602 or via e-mail at [Tim.Counts@dhs.gov](mailto:Tim.Counts@dhs.gov). If you received this news release via e-mail, you may electronically copy the embedded JPEG image for print or broadcast use.

and removal officers deported to Mexico yesterday a Rochester man who was convicted of making terroristic threats by wielding a hammer over his wife’s head and threatening to kill her.

Juan Elodio-Benitez, 35, legally immigrated to the United States from Mexico in 1998. According to a criminal complaint filed in Olmstead County District Court, a Rochester Police officer responded to a domestic assault report in August 2003. The officer found Elodio-Benitez with his wife, which violated a protection order barring contact between the two. The woman told the officer that she and Elodio-Benitez argued. He grabbed her hair, pulled her head down, and raised a hammer in the other hand, threatening to kill her.

Elodio-Benitez pleaded guilty to making terroristic threats in November 2003. He was given a one-year and one-day stayed prison sentence. However, the judge required him to serve 30 days in the Olmstead County Adult Detention Center, and also placed him on five years’ probation.

After the second time Elodio-Benitez violated his probation in August 2004, the court imposed the stayed sentence and he was sent to prison. While in prison, ICE special agents placed a “detainer” on Elodio-Benitez to ensure that prison officials notified ICE prior to his release. ICE routinely checks jails and prisons nationwide to locate, identify and then deport criminal aliens.

“This criminal has done too much damage in Rochester,” said Special Agent-in-Charge Mark Cangemi of the ICE office in Bloomington. “We make a priority of finding, arresting and deporting those who bring harm to our communities, including members of their own families.”

Although Elodio-Benitez had legal status in the United States, his criminal conviction resulted in a federal immigration judge revoking his permanent-resident status and ordered him deported to Mexico.

Court records show that Elodio-Benitez was also convicted in August 2003 of domestic assault against his wife.

During fiscal year 2004, which ended Sept. 30, ICE detention and removal agents removed 3,152 criminal aliens and status violators from a five-state area that includes: Minnesota, Nebraska, Iowa North Dakota and South Dakota. Of that number, 1,488 were classified as criminal aliens for having been convicted of such crimes as: drug offenses, assault and battery, armed robbery, rape and fraud. The remaining 1,664 had committed administrative immigration law violations.

NOTE: For a JPEG digital image file of Elodio-Benitez, please contact Tim Counts at 952-853-2602 or via e-mail at [Tim.Counts@dhs.gov](mailto:Tim.Counts@dhs.gov). If you received this news release via e-mail, you may electronically copy the embedded JPEG image for print or broadcast use.

# ICE #

*U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.*